

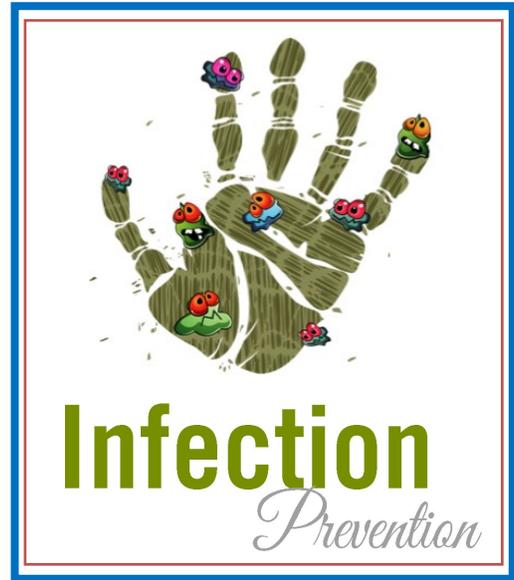


THE PREPAREDNESS REPORT

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DSHS Region 2/3 HCID workshop coming in May! See page 5 for details



DSHS Infection Prevention & Control Knowledge Assessment Program

Thi Dang, Epidemiology

The Texas Department of State Health Services Health Service Region 2/3 (DSHS HSR 2/3) has recognized that the increase in hospital acquired infections and multi-drug resistant organisms has led to a need to enhance the infection prevention and control knowledge and capacity among our public health and health care partners. In August 2015, DSHS HSR 2/3 announced a training program to assist 40 epidemiologists and infection preventionists to obtain training in infection prevention and control. Those interested in the DSHS HSR 2/3 training and knowledge assessment program had to go through an application process and demonstrate evidence of their current role in prevention and control efforts. Those selected for the training and knowledge assessment program will attend a 2-day in person training and monthly webinar based training sessions. They also receive study materials including access to the Association for Professionals in Infection Control & Epidemiology (APIC) Text and the APIC Certification in Infection Prevention & Control (CIC) Study Guide. The first in person training session was held in Arlington on March 3-March 4 with 18 people in attendance. The second session will be held in August.

To assess their knowledge after receiving training in infection prevention, participants will be provided the opportunity to take the examination for CIC. Per the Certification Board of Infection Control & Epidemiology (CBIC), the infection control certification examination is the standardized measure of the basic knowledge, skills and abilities expected of professionals working in infection prevention and control. The examination includes 150 questions which must be completed within three hours. Once the certification is achieved, it is valid for five years.

The DSHS HSR 2/3 Infection Prevention and Control Knowledge Assessment Program is the first program in Texas and among a handful in the United States to offer participants the ability to assess their knowledge of infection prevention via certification.



HCID Tabletop Exercise

Brenda Hart
Community Preparedness

The Texas Department of State Health Services Health Service Region 2/3 in coordination with the North Central Texas Council of Governments conducted a High Consequence Infectious Disease tabletop exercise on February 25, 2016. The exercise planning team has been working since November with Integrated Solutions Consulting to develop a comprehensive regional plan that integrates all of the existing jurisdictional plans. Local tactical plans have also been exercised in Denton and Grayson Counties, as well as a regional transport exercise conducted by the North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council.

The purpose of the HSR 2/3 exercise was to address overall coordination of an infectious disease event and to understand the expectations of local jurisdictions during a public health response. The exercise highlighted strong regional collaboration, but identified gaps in understanding routine public health operations as well as response activities during a public health emergency. Confusion between DSHS Central Office and regional roles during an event contributed to a fragmented response. HSR 2/3 plans to address these gaps by collaborating with additional partners and developing training for stakeholders on day to day public health operations

One last exercise is scheduled during the DSHS High Consequence Infectious Disease Workshop on May 3-5, 2016. This exercise will vet the new plan for the last time and establish how jurisdictions can effectively work together during an infectious disease outbreak. The regional plan can be reviewed electronically at the following link: <https://nctcog.isc-cemp.com/LoginAccount/LogOn>
For additional information, please contact Brenda Hart at: Brenda.hart@dshs.state.tx.us



PAHPA-Annex H Initiative

Lupe Torres
Community Preparedness

DSHS HSR 2/3 will launch an initiative for counties in the region that do not have a local health department in their jurisdictions. For these counties, ***DSHS is their Local Health Department.***

The initiative will concentrate on the provisions addressed in the “Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act” (PAHPA). PAHPA focused on improving preparedness for any public health emergency. It also amended the Public Health Service Act in order to extend, fund, and improve several programs designed to prepare local jurisdictions in the event of a pandemic, biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear accident or attack.

As the lead entity for planning and coordinating public health and medical response in the state, DSHS will work closely with jurisdictions. Jurisdictions must accept the responsibility for developing, adopting, exercising, and maintaining their Local Annex H-Public Health and Medical Services Plan. Also to ensure that they are engaging the whole community in their planning efforts by including community leaders, private sector partners, non-profit organizations, as well as those with access and functional needs, those who are elderly, parents of young children, and people with household pets or service animals.

DSHS will provide technical assistance, support and guidance. Counties must follow the Texas Department of Emergency Management’s (TDEM) Preparedness Standards for Emergency Management in Texas (TDEM-100), which sets the state planning standards for Local Annex H requirements. The State Planning Standards Checklist/Crosswalk and Planning Content Guide are tools available that will be provided and used in developing a more comprehensive Local Annex H-Public Health and Medical Services Plan and Appendices.

Sustained Dispensing Operations

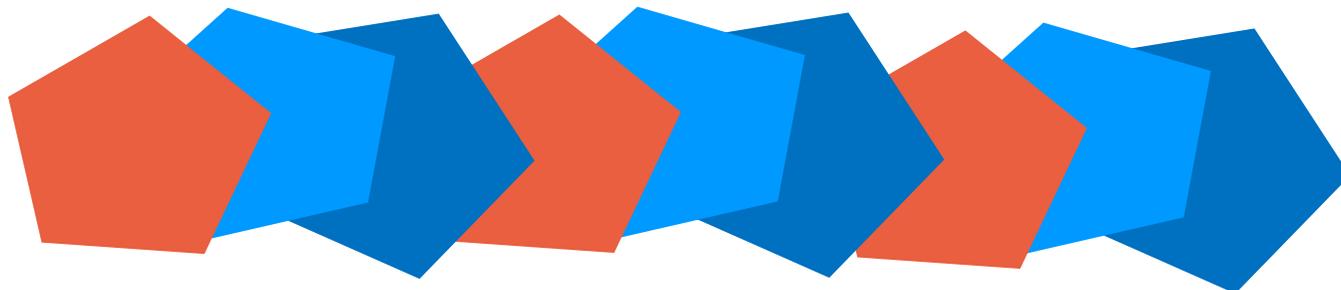
Chris Washington
Community Preparedness

During the 2015-2016 Operational Readiness Reviews (ORR), a gap in sustained operations was identified. Sustained operations, as identified by the ORR requirements, consists of the 50 day course of antibiotics after the initial 10 day supply of antibiotics has been dispensed in response to an inhalation anthrax exposure. There are several challenges that come with sustained dispensing operations including: staffing issues, medication compliance, adverse effects from extended antibiotic use, etc. Official guidance to address the many complexities of a long-term response has not yet been released but it is likely that some guidance on long-term mass medication planning will be released over the course of the next year or two.

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) not only developed a plan for sustained dispensing operations but they have also exercised their plan. The PDPH long-term mass prophylaxis plan includes the initial 10 day dose, the subsequent 50 day course, as well as administration of a 3 dose vaccine series. Their exercise focused on the secondary 50 day antibiotic dispensing assuming that the initial 10 day course had already been supplied to the community affected. Some of the challenges and limitations noted during the exercise include: Pre-scripted populations during a non-emergency situation did not contain extraneous medical conditions as they would during a real event, and the exercise didn't include patients asking additional questions which would slow the dispensing process. They were able to successfully test their electronic method of record keeping during a dispensing event. A special database was created in order to keep track of the patients attending the sustained operations exercise. Currently most plans across the country are using a paper based system to document patients that visit a point of dispensing location. All in all, the PDPH long-term mass prophylaxis exercise created a good foundation for future sustained dispensing exercises all across the country.

Until guidance is released by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), region 2/3 will continue to look into different methods of sustained dispensing operations and provide support to our local partners.

Sources: **Puerini, R., Caum, J., Francis, N., & Alles, S. (2015). The 49th Hour: Analysis of a Follow-up Medication and Vaccine Dispensing Field Test. *Health Security, 13*(1), 54-63.**



Upcoming Exercises & Training Events

Stephanie Patrick
Community Preparedness

⇒ **Regional workshops on the High Consequence Infectious Diseases – Ebola and Other Pathogens**

May 3-5, 2016 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel—DFW Airport 4441 West John Carpenter FWY Irving, Texas

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Section (HEPRS) will host a regional workshop in Region 2/3 for the purpose of sharing in-depth, Texas-specific preparedness and response information pertaining to high consequence infectious disease. The workshop will provide information for attendees to review current strategies, assess levels of preparedness and response capacity, and identify gaps. The workshop will share information on current strategies, assess individual levels of preparedness and response, and identify gaps in service.

Target Audience: EMS Technicians/Paramedics, Fire Service, Public Health, Hazardous Materials, Public Works Emergency Management, Health Care, Emergency Communications, etc.

Registration procedures and lodging availability are available at: www.texas-hcid-workshops.org

Further inquiries can be directed to info@texas-hcid-workshops.org or 512-394-0170.

⇒ **Donations Management Course, this course is an elective for the Emergency Management Institute Advanced Professional Series. (Course #G-288)**

May 10-11, 2016 at Catholic Charities 249 Thornhill Dr. Fort Worth, Texas

This course is designed to provide participants detailed information on how unsolicited donations can quickly turn response and recovery operations into the “second disaster” if there is not effective donations management preplanning. The course describes the state and federal donations management systems, assists participants in developing a local Donations Management Plan, and outlines how crucial the media is to the overall success or failure of the donations management program.

To register: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=a0d6df90-8dc9-4df0-b682-59177a58da3d>

⇒ **Public Schools & High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID)**

May 18, 2016 at Fort Worth ISD Professional Development Center, 1st floor. 3150 McCart Avenue Fort Worth, Texas

This tabletop exercise will engage independent school officials in discussion with local health and medical subject matter experts, behavioral health/mental health support agencies, public information officers and local emergency management.

Target Audience: Public School ISD’s, Public School Nurses, Emergency Management, EMS, Public Health & Medical, Behavioral Health. For additional information contact: Stephen Fulmer, SMFulmer@TarrantCounty.com

Upcoming Exercises & Training Events

Stephanie Patrick
Community Preparedness

⇒ **Mass Fatalities Incident Response**

May 18-20, 2016 at Parker County EOC 215 Trinity Street Weatherford, Texas

The Parker County Emergency Management Department will be hosting this training at the Parker County EOC at 215 Trinity St., Weatherford, Texas. Class size is limited to 25 seats.

If you are interested please register at www.preparingtexas.org

⇒ **Medical Management of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Ex-plosive (CBRNE) Events**

June 16-17, 2016 at NCTTRAC 600 Six Flags Drive Arlington, Texas

This Course teaches participants to perform patient triage, decontamination, treatment, and transportation in the event of exposure to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) weapons. Target Audience: EMS Technicians/Paramedics, Fire Service, Public Health, Physicians/Physician Assistants, Hospital/Medical Treatment Facility Personnel, etc.

Registration Instructions: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=5badaeec-66bc-4fb1-85eb-a2ed92a75782>

⇒ **Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disasters (Course #G-489)**

June 21, 2016 at Richardson City Hall 411 W. Arapaho Road Richardson, Texas

This course aims to introduce the keys to success in managing large numbers of spontaneous volunteers in disasters. Its underlying assumption is that much of the volunteer help is indeed needed, and that with basic Emergency Management coordination skills, the volunteer resources can often be put to effective use, making a positive difference in the affected community. The course will discuss the benefits spontaneous volunteers can bring to relief efforts and the challenges they may bring if not coordinated effectively. In addition, the course will examine planning considerations regarding spontaneous volunteers.

To register, visit: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=534cf317-f026-4253-acec-359c9ee8c18c>

Upcoming Exercises & Training Events

Stephanie Patrick
Community Preparedness

⇒ **Donations Management Course (this course is an elective for the Emergency Management Institute Advanced Professional Series)**

July 19-20, 2016 at Richardson City Hall 411 W. Arapaho Road Richardson, Texas

This course is designed to provide participants detailed information on how unsolicited donations can quickly turn response and recovery operations into the "second disaster" if there is not effective donations management preplanning. The course describes the state and federal donations management systems, assists participants in developing a local Donations Management Plan, and outlines how crucial the media is to the overall success or failure of the donations management program.

To register: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=e7aae09d-044c-428b-93d3-bacaffc99140>

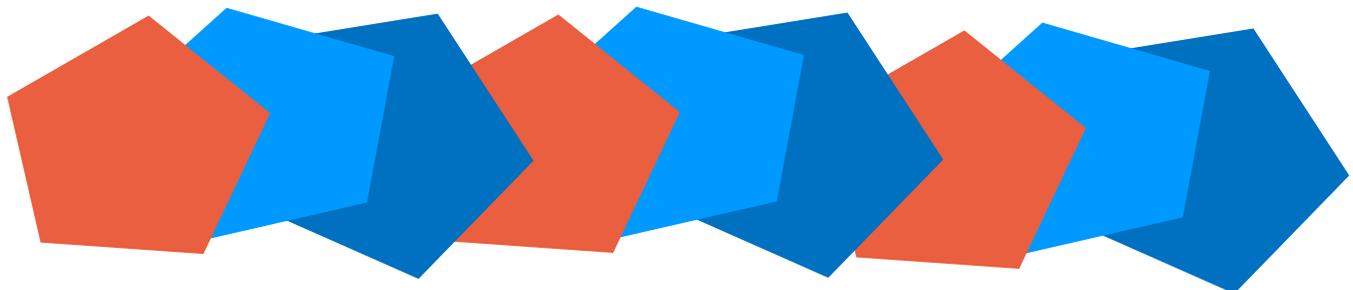
⇒ **Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness (Course #MGT-439)**

July 21-22, 2016 at NCTTRAC 600 Six Flags Drive Arlington, Texas

This course prepares students to effectively, appropriately, and safely plan for and respond to a disaster incident involving children, addressing the specific needs of pediatric patients in the event of a community based-incident. Pediatric specific planning considerations include mass sheltering, pediatric-triage, reunification planning and pediatric decontamination considerations.

Target Audience: Community and Hospital-based Emergency Managers, Public Health Personnel, MRC Personnel, Private Sector, Law Enforcement, and Disaster Response/Relief Personnel.

Registration Instructions: <https://www.preparingtexas.org/DeliveryDetails.aspx?classid=7b641a61-2d27-4068-b8a6-c8ea83d2d734>



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